

IS 291 before being appointed to her current post.

PS 151K has truly blossomed under her strong leadership and administrative style. Reading and math scores have increased tremendously, and a science lab is now available for the students. Jeanette works diligently with a very active Parents' Association to promote an atmosphere of harmony and warmth. Under her tenure, the third through fifth grade violin orchestra, the third through fifth grade jazz band, and the kindergarten through second grade Piano Lab have all been created. Additionally, her leadership has been responsible for establishing the Fine Arts Lab for all grades. These accomplishments clearly demonstrate her passionate love of the arts.

Jeanette and her husband, Jose, are celebrating 25 years of wedded bliss. They are extremely proud of their three beautiful daughters: Celia, a Doctoral Candidate at Binghamton University; Margo, a kindergarten teacher at PS 145K; and Rebecca, a junior at The Mary Louis Academy for Girls.

Mr. Speaker, Jeanette Lugo Sosa has chosen to dedicate her career to educating our children and enriching their lives. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

IN HONOR OF TILLIE FOWLER,
FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from Florida for allowing me to participate in this tribute to our friend, Tillie Fowler.

I was privileged to get to know Tillie and to see how effective she was here in this body. I served with her on the Whip team, where her intelligence and leadership abilities were great assets. Tillie also had the universal respect of members of Congress in both parties because of her gentle demeanor and the way she got things done. She also enjoyed that same measure of respect from all the branches of our armed services. Tillie gained a seat on the Armed Services Committee and worked hard on issues to strengthen our military and improve the quality of life for our service personnel.

One of the newspaper stories referred to Tillie as a passionate advocate for the City of Jacksonville and for the military. There is no question about that, and she achieved success without raising her voice or pounding on the rostrum. She did it with a personal style that embodied all the characteristics of a Southern lady. Tillie was polite and courteous, always immaculately dressed, and easy to work with—yet tenacious in pursuit of her goals. Working Woman magazine once said about Tillie that she was a “diminutive Southern belle but tough as an old Marine.” She said she learned that lesson from her grandmother, who said being a lady doesn’t mean you can’t be tough.

Tillie heeded her grandmother’s advice, and it served her well throughout a career that was marked by pioneering accomplishments. She was one of only five women in her Emory Uni-

versity Law School graduating class. She won a seat on the Jacksonville City Council and was elected as the council’s first woman president. She earned high marks for her work ethic and ability to get things done. In 1993, she brought that same energy and determination to Capitol Hill.

She already had Washington experience as a former House staffer and in the Office of Consumer Affairs at the White House. Tillie’s abilities were recognized quickly and she became a leader on issues relating to our military. She also became a member of the House leadership team, serving as vice-chair of the Republican Conference.

Even after leaving Congress in 2001, Tillie was still being called on to tackle tough assignments. She chaired the commission that investigated sexual misconduct allegations at the Air Force Academy and was named to the panel looking into issues surrounding the treatment of prisoners in Iraq.

She never moved to Washington, choosing to commute back home every weekend to be close to her family and her strong Jacksonville roots. While Tillie focused much attention on the district and on issues important to Florida, her work touched lives all across our great country—especially those with ties to our military. That was evidenced by the strong outpouring of support the family received from so many Americans who appreciated Tillie’s faithful service.

The House of Representatives is a better place because Tillie Fowler served here. I am honored to help pay tribute to Tillie and her remarkable career.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
SAN ANTONIO COUNCILMAN
CHRISTOPHER “CHIP” HAASS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize San Antonio Councilman Christopher “Chip” Haass for his dedication to public service in my community.

Councilman Haass attended Saint Mary’s High School in San Antonio, after completing high school he enrolled at Texas Christian University and received a degree in Political Science and History, then received a master’s in Education. After graduation he returned to Saint Mary’s as a government teacher, he is the first male alumni to do so.

At age 25 he decided to enter the political arena, and in 2003 he was elected and became the youngest Councilman ever elected in San Antonio’s history. He credits his energetic personality, and idealism that led the people of his community to call for reform.

Councilman Haass has distinguished himself during his term by improving the basic infrastructure of District 10. Soon after he entered office he passed bonds that secured monetary assets to parks and schools in the community.

He sees his future in public service, either as an elected official, working with non-profit organizations, or as an educator. He enjoys bringing people together as a community, and debating the issues. Councilman Haass has the ability to motivate others through his vision, and create a consensus.

Mr. Speaker, Councilman Chip Haass has been an inspiring public servant, first as an educator, second as a politician, and lastly as a friend of San Antonio. I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize his dedication and hard work.

A TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS OF WILLIAMSBURG

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished organization, The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg. It is an honor to represent The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to such a selfless organization.

Mr. Speaker, The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg was founded in 1966 to help families in need in South Williamsburg. Over the course of its 39 years of service to the Brooklyn community The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg has thrived marvelously where today it represents more than 50,000 community residents and 148 not-for-profits, religious, educational, charitable organizations and civic associations in the Jewish community of Williamsburg, Clinton Hill and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Under the tutelage of their President, Rabbi David Niederman, The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg has established itself as a direct provider of social and housing services and is the address for urban planning, public health and community development services for the Jewish community of Greater Williamsburg.

The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg, has been a leader in providing low-income housing to the Williamsburg community. Their most recent project includes the development of a waterfront property at the site of the former Schaeffer Brewery, which has 149 housing units reserved for low-income people. Additionally, they are the central address for the New York State and New York City Departments of Health and the Center for Disease Control in researching and conducting pilot projects on Cancer and Shigellosis in the culturally rich Hasidic Jewish community. They have also been instrumental in providing treatment to those suffering from the adverse affects of tobacco as well as being involved in collaborative efforts with other not-for-profits in providing for the overall betterment of the Williamsburg community.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements of the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg. After the destruction and decimation of many Hasidic dynasties in Europe during the Holocaust, it is truly an inspiration to see the Hasidic sects of Satmar, Pupa, Vishnitz, Vien, Tzelem, Skver, Klausenberg and Spinka join together under the umbrella of The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and call Brooklyn their home.

Mr. Speaker, may our country continue to benefit from the civic actions of The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and community groups similar to them.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO'S MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of New Mexico Men's and Women's Basketball Teams on winning the Men's and Women's 2005 Mountain West Conference (MWC) Tournaments. From the Pit in Albuquerque to the Pepsi Center in Denver, these Lobo student-athletes have proudly represented the University of New Mexico.

The Lobo Men's 60–56 victory against Utah in the Mountain West Conference tournament garnered them the Mountain West Conference Championship. Equally impressive, the UNM Women's Basketball team beat Utah 47–37 for its third straight Mountain West Conference tournament victory.

Led by Head Coach Ritchie McKay, the Men's Basketball team secured an NCAA Tournament bid, the first since 1999. With a Conference Championship under their belt, this marks the 11th time the Lobo Men's team secured an NCAA tournament spot. The UNM Men are on a nine game winning streak as they look toward more "W's" in the NCAA tournament.

Now a perfect 3–0 in Conference title games, the Lobo Women, under the tutelage of Head Coach Don Flanagan, secured a bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Women's basketball team has dominated the conference for the past three years and has garnered three consecutive Conference Championships. The Lady Lobos have now won 9 straight Conference Championship games as they prepare for the NCAA tournament.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend both the UNM Men's and Women's Basketball Teams, Head Coaches Ritchie McKay and Don Flanagan, the University of New Mexico and all the dedicated Lobo fans for this successful season. I am eagerly anticipating the teams' first round games in the NCAA tournament as they proudly represent the University of New Mexico on the national stage. Go Lobos!

TRIBUTE TO ARKANSAS' 39TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today on behalf of Congress to thank Arkansas' 39th Infantry Brigade for their service in Iraq and to welcome them home.

A Over the last year, the men and women of the 39th have worked to make a positive difference in the lives of the Iraqi people. They have faced their duties bravely, performed honorably and made a difference in the development of an emerging country.

Many years ago, the 39th chose to be represented by a Bowie knife laid over a diamond on their patch. The knife serves both as a tribute to The Bowie State and as a symbol of

their aggressive spirit, while the diamond symbolizes the only diamond field in North America located in Arkansas.

There is no doubt the 39th has lived up to the badge it proudly bares. Forceful and strong is why Iraq is better today than it was in April of 2004 when our brave men and women first pulled into Camp Taji. Forceful and strong is how they did their job in the most hostile environment, every day, for a year. Forceful and strong is why their families can wrap their arms around them now and welcome them home.

The efforts of the 39th have resulted in re-constructed Iraqi schools, hospitals, irrigation and sewage systems, and new recreational projects for children. The footprint they left in the Iraqi sand is far deeper than their boot size; and the sacrifice made by too many not coming home will never be forgotten.

We must take a moment, as we celebrate the return of our loved ones, to think of those less fortunate. Those who gave their lives defending strangers to ensure peace have made the noblest of sacrifices. They will be missed by their families and friends and honored by their country. We pray every day for those who loved them and thank them all for what they've left us with.

On behalf of the Congress, I thank all the members of the 39th Infantry Brigade for the immeasurable contributions they have made to peace, democracy and the Iraqi people. Their bravery and courage stand as a shining example of American ability and our debt to them can never fully be repaid.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAN ANTONIO CITY COUNCILMAN JULIAN CASTRO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize San Antonio City Councilman Julian Castro for his distinguished career in public service, and his deep commitment to the people of San Antonio.

Julian Castro and his twin brother Joaquin were born on September 16, 1974, and grew up on San Antonio's west side. For all but one year of his education, Julian attended San Antonio public schools. Upon his graduation from high school, he moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, where he attended Stanford University. He graduated with a double major in Political Science and Communication in 1996, graduating with honors and distinction.

After college, Julian returned home to San Antonio, and took a position as a permanent substitute teacher at his alma mater, Jefferson High School. He also began his career in public service by working with the City's Special Projects Office on housing and economic development issues.

Julian ran for City Council in 2000, and won a seat representing District 7. He ran on a platform of economic development and revitalization for the city, and committed himself to these projects once in office. He worked to improve the community by cleaning up blighted neighborhoods, and was a leading voice for government ethics reform and public safety.

Julian Castro was 26 at the time of his election to the City Council, making him the

youngest elected city councilman in San Antonio history. He is just beginning on a promising career, and I know that he will be a major force for good in Texas politics for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the chance to thank him here for the work he has done thus far, and to wish him well as he continues to serve the people of San Antonio.

A TRIBUTE TO ROSA WITSELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Rosa Witsell who has dedicated her career to her community and enriching the lives of our children.

Rosa grew up in Charleston, South Carolina and is the youngest of four children. She was nurtured in a home environment where there was a strong belief and faith in God. At age 10 she joined the Tabernacle Baptist Church and became a Sunday School Teacher and Secretary, and a member of the Junior Usher Board.

After earning her Bachelor's of Science from Johnson C. Smith University, Rosa moved to Brooklyn, New York where she continued her spiritual growth by joining the Brown Memorial Baptist Church under the Pastorate of the late Dr. Rev. Samuel Austin. She remains active in Brown's Ministries under her current Pastor, Rev. Clinton M. Miller, where she is a member of the Senior Missionary Society, Willing Worker's Club, and the 40/60 Friendship Club.

Rosa began her career path with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation as a Recreation Director. She spent 12 years nurturing the young minds of 3 and 4 year olds in a distinguished pre-school program and broadening the horizon of 6 and 12 year olds in summer day camp. Rosa was later promoted to Assistant Supervisor of Recreation where she served the Harlem Community and later the East New York Community. She also served as her agency's liaison to Community Board Five, representing the agency at Community Board meetings, Youth Committee meetings, and providing invaluable support and assistance to the Board's staff.

After more than 20 years, Rosa retired from the Department of Parks, but remained in the East New York Community as Center Director of the Starrett-at-Spring Creek Teen Center. In addition to educational and cultural trips, Rosa implemented an annual Mother/Daughter Dinner, Double Dutch and Talent Show competitions, dance classes, and workshops dealing with job skills, AIDS awareness, and proper make-up. After 4 years as Center Director, Rosa resigned and joined the United States Postal Service where she is currently employed as a letter carrier. She enjoys the continued interaction with college students, young families, and seniors. Rosa's customers frequently thank her for her smile and excellent service. In fact, because her customers took the time to send letters of accommodation to the Postmaster, the Postal Service recognized her for outstanding customer service.

Rosa is a former Board member of Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association, and a former Cadet Girl Scout Leader. She is a